January 6, 2003

## 601-359-2916

**Contact:** John Sewell

## Governor Musgrove Welcomes Computer Grant Program To Mississippi

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove today announced a new grant program being offered through the Beaumont Foundation of America. A total of \$1.1 million worth of computer hardware will be distributed through this program in Mississippi this year.

"The skills to succeed are developed through education, and the people of Mississippi need the best tools to enhance those skills and cross the technology bridge of the 21<sup>st</sup> century," Musgrove said. "This program will help strengthen that bridge."

Musgrove said this program builds on the recent success of his Computers in the Classroom initiative. Mississippi is the first state in the nation to place an Internet-accessible computer in every public school classroom.

Strengthening our investment in education is also key, Musgrove said.

"Our investment in education is an investment in our future – that's why I presented a budget that invests 62 percent in education. Anything less shortchanges our future, and that's not an alternative I'm willing to accept," said Musgrove.